<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1.　　(Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting color image data;

generating means for generating flag data indicating an attribute of an image corresponding to the color image data from the color image data, with respect to each pixel of the image, the flag data indicative of a character, a figure or a mesh with respect to each pixel of the image;

first pixel density converting means for pixel density converting the image data at a designated magnification;

second pixel density converting means for pixel density converting the flag data in accordance with the designated magnification; and

output means for making a process of the pixel density converted image data different every pixel in accordance with the flag data and outputting the processed image data,

wherein a pixel converting method of said first pixel density converting means is different from a pixel converting method of said second pixel density converting means,

said second pixel density converting means makes a converting method different in accordance with attributes of the flag data, and

~~said second pixel density converting means performs a logical~~
~~arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel~~
~~when the designated magnification is reduction, and performs a processing using a nearest~~
~~neighboring pixel of the target pixel when the designated magnification is enlargement~~

said second pixel density converting means, when the designated magnification is reduction, performs an arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel with respect to the flag data indicative of a character and a figure, and performs a processing using a nearest neighboring pixel of the target pixel, with respect to the flag data indicative of a mesh.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the flag data is a character flag, said output means performs a sharpness emphasis to the image data.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the flag data is a mesh flag, said output means performs a low pass filter process to the image data.

5. and 6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said generating means generates the flag data on the basis of a change in image data of a pixel near a target pixel.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first pixel density converting means uses one of a linear interpolating method and bicubic spline interpolation.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1, wherein said output means makes a binarizing process to the image data different in accordance with the flag data.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein when the flag data is the character flag or figure flag, an error diffusion process is performed to the image data.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said output means changes color conversion coefficients in accordance with the flag data and performs a color converting process of the image data.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in the case where said input means inputs data described by a page description language from a computer, said generating means generates the flag data on the basis of attribute information of the page description language.

15. and 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting color image data;

generating flag data indicating an attribute of an image corresponding to the color image data from the color image data, with respect to each pixel of the image, the flag data indicative of a character, a figure or a mesh with respect to each pixel of the image;

pixel density converting the image data at a designated magnification;

pixel density converting the flag data in accordance with the designated magnification; and

making a process of the pixel density converted image data different

every pixel in accordance with the flag data and outputting the processed image data to a

printer,

wherein a pixel converting method of said step of pixel density

converting the image data is different from a pixel converting method of said step of pixel

density converting the flag data,

~~wherein~~ said step of pixel density converting the flag data includes

making a converting method different in accordance with attributes of the flag data,

~~and said step of pixel density converting the flag data includes~~

~~performing a logical arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels~~

~~near a target pixel when the designated magnification is reduction, and performing a~~

~~processing using a nearest neighboring pixel of the target pixel when the designated~~

~~magnification is enlargement~~

<u>and said step of pixel density converting the flag data, when the</u>

<u>designated magnification is reduction, includes performing an arithmetic operating process</u>

<u>of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel with respect to the flag data</u>

<u>indicative of a character and a figure, and includes performing a processing using a nearest</u>

<u>neighboring pixel of the target pixel, with respect to the flag data indicative of a mesh.</u>

18.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium which

stores a program for allowing an image processing apparatus to execute said program

comprising the steps of:

inputting color image data;

generating flag data indicating an attribute of an image corresponding to the color image data from the color image data, with respect to each pixel of the image, the flag data indicative of a character, a figure or a mesh with respect to each pixel of the image;

pixel density converting the image data at a designated magnification;

pixel density converting the flag data in accordance with the designated magnification; and

making a process of the pixel density converted image data different every pixel in accordance with the flag data and outputting the processed image data to a printer,

wherein said step of pixel density converting the flag data includes making a converting method different in accordance with attributes of the flag data,

~~wherein a pixel converting method of said step of pixel density converting the image data is different from a pixel converting method of said step of pixel density converting the flag data, and said step of pixel density converting the flag data includes performing a logical arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel when the designated magnification is reduction, and performing a processing using a nearest neighboring pixel of the target pixel when the designated magnification is enlargement~~

<u>and said step of pixel density converting the flag data, when the</u>

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designated magnification is reduction, includes performing an arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel with respect to the flag data indicative of a character and a figure, and includes performing a processing using a nearest neighboring pixel of the target pixel, with respect to the flag data indicative of a mesh.

19. - 23. (Canceled)

24. (New) An image processing apparatus comprising:

input means for inputting color image data;

generating means for generating flag data indicating an attribute of an image corresponding to the color image data from the color image data, with respect to each pixel of the image, the flag data indicative of a character, a figure or a mesh with respect to each pixel of the image;

first pixel density converting means for pixel density converting the image data at a designated magnification;

second pixel density converting means for pixel density converting the flag data in accordance with the designated magnification; and

output means for making a process of the pixel density converted image data different every pixel in accordance with the flag data and outputting the processed image data,

wherein a pixel converting method of said first pixel density converting means is different from a pixel converting method of said second pixel density converting means,

said second pixel density converting means makes a converting method different in accordance with attributes of the flag data, and

said second pixel density converting means, when the designated magnification is reduction, performs an arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel with respect to the flag data indicative of a character and a figure, and performs a processing of counting the number of pixels of which flag data is 1 in the peripheral neighboring pixels and setting the pixel after the magnification change to 1 if the counted value exceeds a predetermined value, with respect to the flag data indicative of a mesh.

25. (New) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

inputting color image data;

generating flag data indicating an attribute of an image corresponding to the color image data from the color image data, with respect to each pixel of the image, the flag data indicative of a character, a figure or a mesh with respect to each pixel of the image;

pixel density converting the image data at a designated magnification;

pixel density converting the flag data in accordance with the designated magnification; and

making a process of the pixel density converted image data different every pixel in accordance with the flag data and outputting the processed image data,

wherein a pixel converting method of said step of pixel density converting the image data is different from a pixel converting method of said step of pixel density converting the flag data,

said step of pixel density converting the flag data makes a converting method different in accordance with attributes of the flag data, and

said step of pixel density converting the flag data, when the designated magnification is reduction, includes performing an arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel with respect to the flag data indicative of a character and a figure, and includes performing a processing of counting the number of pixels of which flag data is 1 in the peripheral neighboring pixels and setting the pixel after the magnification change to 1 if the counted value exceeds a predetermined value, with respect to the flag data indicative of a mesh.

26. (New) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for allowing an image processing apparatus to execute said program comprising the steps of:

inputting color image data;

generating flag data indicating an attribute of an image corresponding to the color image data from the color image data, with respect to each pixel of the image, the

flag data indicative of a character, a figure or a mesh with respect to each pixel of the image;

pixel density converting the image data at a designated magnification;

pixel density converting the flag data in accordance with the designated magnification; and

making a process of the pixel density converted image data different every pixel in accordance with the flag data and outputting the processed image data,

wherein a pixel converting method of said step of pixel density converting the image data is different from a pixel converting method of said step of pixel density converting the flag data,

said step of pixel density converting the flag data makes a converting method different in accordance with attributes of the flag data, and

said step of pixel density converting the flag data, when the designated magnification is reduction, includes performing an arithmetic operating process of flag values using a plurality of pixels near a target pixel with respect to the flag data indicative of a character and a figure, and includes performing a processing of counting the number of pixels of which flag data is 1 in the peripheral neighboring pixels and setting the pixel after the magnification change to 1 if the counted value exceeds a predetermined value, with respect to the flag data indicative of a mesh.